

Amendments

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A method for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:
 - receiving patient profile information for a patient at a server connected to a computer network, the patient profile information submitted by a user at a terminal connected to the network;
 - comparing the patient profile information with acceptance criteria for clinical trials stored in a database, the comparison performed by the server; and
 - determining whether the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials; and notifying the user whether the patient has prequalified for any clinical trial.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of comparing, determining, and notifying comprise:
 - comparing the patient profile information with acceptance criteria for clinical trial sites stored in a database, the comparison performed by the server;
 - determining whether the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trial sites;
 - and
 - notifying the user whether the patient has prequalified for any clinical trial sites.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further including providing the user with instructions for enrolling in the clinical trial for which the user has prequalified.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, further including:
 - asking the user a plurality of questions; and
 - creating a patient profile based on the responses to the plurality of questions.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the step of asking the user a plurality of questions includes:
 - asking the user one or more static questions;
 - asking the user one or more dynamic questions which are selected based on the user's responses to other static and dynamic questions; and
 - creating a patient profile based on the responses to the static and dynamic questions.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3, further including:
 - asking the user a series of questions targeted to a specific clinical trial site after determining that a patient meets preliminary acceptance criteria for the specific clinical trial; and
 - determining whether the user prequalifies for the specific clinical trial based on the user's response to the targeted questions.
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the static questions, dynamic questions, and targeted questions are provided with a plurality of answer options, and the user may select one or more answer options in order to answer the questions.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the user is required to submit an answer in a specified format, the specified format being suitable for evaluation by a computer program process.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further including:
updating the static questions, dynamic questions, or answer options.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user is provided with an application to submit for a clinical trial for which the patient has prequalified.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the application is filled out by the user and submitted on-line to the server.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the application is forwarded to the clinical trial site.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the patient profile is forwarded to the clinical trial site with the application.
15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the application and patient profile forwarded to the trial site includes a patient ID number, but does not include the patient's name to protect the privacy of the patient.
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further including:
notifying the clinical trial sponsor when the user submits an application to the clinical trial site.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the user is provided with a search engine that allows the user to search for medical information before selecting a clinical trial.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the acceptance criteria includes geographic location.

19. (Original) A system for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:
a server connected to a network;
a data storage device included in the server; and
a database located in the data storage device, the database storing patient profile information for a patient and acceptance criteria for a plurality of clinical trials;
the server comparing the patient profile information with the acceptance criteria for the clinical trials stored in the database, determining whether the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials, and notifying a user whether the patient has prequalified for any clinical trials.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the database contains at least one of:

- a) disease/sub-disease records;
- b) drug records;
- c) content records;
- d) clinical trial records;
- e) question records;
- f) device records;
- g) patient profile records;
- g) user registration records; and
- g) trial site records.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein a record in the database contains links to other related records.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the server transmits a plurality of questions to the user over the network, the server also transmits a plurality of answer choices for each question, the server receives responses from the user, and the server builds a patient profile based on the responses.

23. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the server retrieves a disease/sub-disease record corresponding to a disease/sub-disease entered by the user, the disease/-sub-disease record containing links to question records, the server retrieving the question records to access questions to be provided to the user.

24. (Original) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, performing a method for matching patients with clinical trials, comprising:

receiving patient profile information for a patient at a server connected to a computer network, the patient profile information submitted by a user at a terminal connected to the network;

comparing the patient profile information with acceptance criteria for clinical trials stored in a database, the comparison performed by the server; and

determining whether the patient prequalifies for any of the clinical trials; and

notifying the user whether the patient has prequalified for any clinical trials.

ADD new claims as follows:

25. (NEW) A method for recruiting a person to participate as a subject in a clinical study, comprising the steps of:

(a) presenting one or more web pages that allow the person or a caregiver associated with the person to register with a database by submitting registration information to the database, wherein the registration information includes at least a geographic location of the person, at least one disease condition of interest to the person, contact information, and permission information indicating whether the person or caregiver wishes to receive notice of one or more clinical studies;

(b) automatically registering the person or caregiver with the database upon receipt of the registration and permission information;

(c) after step (b), automatically determining, in accordance with the permission information and the registration information, whether to provide the person or caregiver with notice of a given clinical study associated with a disease condition of interest to the person; and

(d) providing the person or caregiver notice of the given clinical study only if a determination is made in step (c) to provide such notice.

26. (NEW) The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of: (e) automatically presenting a questionnaire associated with the given clinical study to the person or caregiver after step (d); and (f) storing answers submitted by the person or caregiver in the database.

27. (NEW) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of: (g) accessing the information stored along with other information in the database to determine whether the person qualifies to participate as a subject in a clinical study different from the given clinical study after step (f).

28. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein the questionnaire includes criteria specified by a sponsor of the clinical study for determining whether the person is an eligible subject for the given clinical study.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed during a registration visit by the person or caregiver to a web site associated with the one or more web pages, and step (d) includes notifying the person or caregiver of the given clinical study during a current or subsequent visit of the person or caregiver to the web site.

30. (NEW) The method of claim 29, wherein step (d) further includes providing a listing of information associated with the given clinical study in a personal library associated with the person or caregiver on the web site.

31. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein the notice provided in step (d) is sent by electronic mail from a web site associated with the one or more web pages to an e-mail address of the person or caregiver.

32. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein the notice provided in step (d) is sent by regular mail to the person or caregiver.

33. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein the notice provided in step (d) is communicated by telephone to the person or caregiver.
34. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein a determination is made to provide the person or caregiver with the notice in step (c) in accordance with a geographic location of the given clinical study.
35. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein in step (c) a determination is made not to provide the person or caregiver with notice of the given clinical study.
36. (NEW) The method of claim 25, wherein in step (a) the registration information includes a user id, a password, electronic mail address or telephone number, zip code, first name or preferred name, gender, date of birth, whether the person is interested in clinical study information, new medical therapies, or participating in clinical studies.
37. (NEW) A method for identifying subjects eligible to participate in a clinical study, comprising the steps of:
- (a) accessing a computer database that stores information about a plurality of persons; wherein for each of said plurality listed in the database, the database includes a geographic location of the person, an age and a gender of the person, and disease conditions of interest to the person;
 - (b) submitting a query to the database, wherein the query includes criteria that reflect eligibility characteristics for persons suitable for participation as subjects in the clinical study; and
 - (c) identifying de-identified data records of persons likely to be subjects eligible for the clinical study based on the query.

38. (NEW) The method of claim 37, wherein the criteria that reflect eligibility characteristics include medications taken by the person, the person's geographic location, disease conditions experienced by the person, and a geographic location of an investigator associated with the clinical study.